

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 10/769,792

Attorney Docket No. Q79500

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Replacement Sheet for Figs. 2A and 2B

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

REMARKS

Claims 1-26 are pending in the application. Claims 19-26 are newly added. Claims 2-6, 9-12, 17 and 18 have been withdrawn from consideration as being drawn to a non-elected species.

DRAWINGS:

The drawings are objected to because Figs. 2A and 2B are interconnected. The Examiner also asserts that, in Fig. 2A, the cross-section “X-X” should be labeled as “2B-2B” to represent the correlation with Fig. 2B. To address the drawing objection, Applicant divides Figs. 2A and 2B, and changes the cross-section label to represent “2B-2B,” as recommended by the Examiner. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. § 112:

Claims 1, 7, 8 and 13-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. This is because the Examiner asserts that in line 1 of claim 1, and line 2 of claim 14, it is not clear whether “to a connector” is referring to the connector previously recited in the claim. The Examiner also asserts that in line 1 of claim 1 and lines 1-2 of claim 14, it is not clear whether Applicant is positively claiming that the indicator is attached to the connector.

Applicant amends claims 1 and 14 to address the Examiner’s concern regarding the phrase “to a connector.” In regard to whether the connector is positively recited, Applicant submits that the claimed indicator is used with an electrical connector and includes features describing cooperation with the electrical connector. However, the connector itself is not explicitly required by claims 1 and 14. Claims 1 and 14 are, therefore, definite and the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, should be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. § 103:

Claims 1, 7, 8 and 13-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Neal et al. (U.S. Patent 905,349 [hereinafter “Neal”]).

The Examiner applies Neal for disclosing a first indication member (element A and the upper portion of Tag d attached thereto), which the Examiner asserts includes first information (i.e., the information on the other portion of the tag d). The Examiner further asserts that the first indication member of Neal is attached such that the connector (a, b and c) cannot be connected if the user does not remove the indicator.

Present Figs. 9A and 9B show an exemplary embodiment of the elected species. At least one difference between Neal and the elected embodiment is the slit provided in the present indicator for accepting the connector. Amended claims 1 and 14 include features that define the slit. Neal does not disclose at least these features. Instead, the applied connector of Neal (i.e., a, b and c) is inserted into element A through the opening that interfaces with the sheath B. However, this opening of Neal is not taught or suggested to be in a side of the indicator and offset, from an edge of the indicator, in an insertion direction of the connector.

Therefore, Neal fails to teach or suggest each feature of claims 1 and 14, such that the rejection thereof under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) should be withdrawn. The rejection of dependent claims 7, 8, 13, 15 and 16 should be withdrawn at least due to these claims depending from claims 1 and 14.

Claims 1, 7, 8 and 13-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Alexander (U.S. Patent 6,811,027) in view of Gendreau (U.S. Patent 5,090,559) or Kugler (U.S. Patent 3,281,056).

The Examiner applies Alexander for allegedly teaching a first indication member (the portion of 15 to the left of perforation line 45), which the Examiner asserts is attached to a position such that the connector (the lower portion of the hanger) cannot be connected if the user does not remove the indicator. As an initial matter, Applicant notes that Alexander and Gendreau are directed to covering articles of clothing. Kugler is directed to a device for storing bags, such as sandwich bags.

The exemplary embodiments of the present invention are directed to providing an indicator for electronic connection devices. Therefore, Applicant further defines claims 1 and 14 to recite this aspect. The applied art would not have taught or suggested the claimed features, including the indicator being applicable to an electronic connector device, along with the claimed slit.

Therefore, the features of claims 1 and 14 are neither taught nor suggested by Alexander, Gendreau and Kugler, such that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) should be withdrawn. The rejection of dependent claims 7, 8, 13, 15 and 16 should likewise be withdrawn at least by virtue of these claims respectively depending upon claims 1 and 14.

NEW CLAIMS:

Applicant adds new claims 19-26 to obtain more varied protection for the invention. The new claims read on the elected species. Claims 19 and 20 are patentable over the art at least due to their respective dependencies on independent claims 1 and 14.

Regarding new claims 21 and 24, a first indication member at which is indicated first information is attached to a position such that the electrical connector cannot be connected if the user does not remove the first indication member. Accordingly, a user can be effectively urged

to perform the predetermined operation before using the electrical connector. Further, a second indication member at which is indicated second information is attached at a cable side of the electrical connector and configured so as not to impede connection of the electrical connector. Therefore, there is no need to remove the second indication member, and the second information is provided to the user at times when the user uses the connector. The applied art does not disclose the combination of features respectively recited in claims 21 and 24. For example, the Examiner asserts that the lower portion of Neal is a second indication member. However, Neal does not teach or suggest a second indication member which is attached at a cable side of the electrical connector so as not to impede connection of the electrical connector. Claims 22, 23, 25 and 26 are deemed patentable over the art at least due to their dependences on claims 21 and 24.

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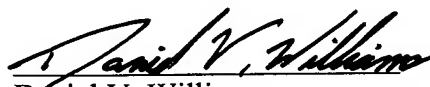
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